TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2002

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

Sherry and I visited our son, Carl KD4CBT in Calhoun, Tennessee this past weekend. Calhoun is in the foot hills of the Smoky Mountains. We flatlanders don't realize the beauty of the hills and mountains.

Having lived in Florida long enough to forget what freezing weather is like, I got a good dose of below freezing temperatures. We even saw snow flurries and oh such a wonderful view. As we watched the snow falling I found myself wishing we could experience a real snowfall. Am I losing my mind?

Nature presents us with many wonderful sights. Too often we tend to overlook or don't appreciate this beautiful world in which we live.

On I-75 just north of Dalton, Ga. We had a tire to blow out on the utility trailer we were towing. The tire came loose and literally tore the trailer fender off, slinging it over two lanes of traffic on the interstate. No one was hurt. The fender is made of steel and weighs 25-30 pounds.

I am convinced that the prayers asking for safe passage for us were indeed answered and I am truly thankful.

Club meeting is the 26th and I hope to see you there. Bring a friend.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 08 SM6UQP Robert Roos
March 08 WB4LOE Larry Skidmore
March 09 000000 Lee Brady
March 12 KF4BKY Joe Husson
March 13 KC4EHT Gerry Wentz
March 19 KS4YH John Towers
March 20 KD4EYR June Roll
March 23 WB4PXO Jim Morgan
March 23 AC4KU Al Sanford
March 24 K4MVO Stephanie Phillips
March 29 W4REN Jan Ferguson
March 30 KC4TE Gene Mann
March 31 KD4ITX Nancy Marsden

FCC APPROVES USE OF ULTRA WIDE BAND (UWB) TECHNOLOGY
From 3/02 CyberSkip

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today approved the use of ultra-wideband (UWB) technology, which allows wireless signals to be sent across broad swaths of wireless spectrum at very low power-presumably without disturbing other communications already taking place over those airwaves.

Deputy Assistant Commerce Secretary Michael Gallagher, who serves as the administration's point man on UWB technology, said that today's FCC decision could potentially open the door to a new universe of private-sector business opportunities.
"I wouldn't have applied myself, the secretary and the deputy secretary wouldn't have applied themselves if we didn't think...this was going to have a very significant impact," Gallagher told Newsbytes in an interview today.

Some of the key applications for UWB technology are expected to be in devices that can be used by law enforcers and public safety workers to see through walls and underground. UWB technology can also be used for vehicular radar devices intended to help prevent car accidents.The FCC's move however may come as a blow to the airline and wireless industries, which have expressed concerns that UWB transmissions could interfere with critical communications signals in their own areas of wireless spectrum.

The Air Travelers Association and other groups have noted that Global Positioning System (GPS) devices can be adversely affected by using UWB signals.

Gallagher said that today's FCC order takes those concerns into account and sets strict limits on the power levels at which UWB transmissions can take place. Those limits should prevent UWB signals from interfering with any existing signals, Gallagher said.

Gallagher said that the FCC also left room in its order to reexamine those limits to insure that they ensure public safety.

The FCC called today's order a "cautious first step with UWB technology."

WHO'S ALIVE, WHO'S DEAD?

When it comes to politics and the performing arts, it's pretty easy to lose track of the formerly powerful or the once popular. Buddy Ebsen for instance. Is Jed Clampett alive or dead these days? (Still alive, at 93). And what about Mr. Brady (Robert Reed)? Sadly, he has passed on. We found these things out by looking it up on the Who's Alive and Who's Dead site. The site helpfully groups people according to the accomplishments for which they are best known, so for instance we can learn that the Monkees, as a group, are all still alive and swinging, though, sadly, we've lost two of the four Beatles. And who knew that, of all the cast members of the original Addams Family TV show, only one cast member, John Astin, still survives? Folks from the acting [profession, music business, sports and politics are highlighted but if you have more idiosyncratic interests, you can dig deeper to find out whether your favorite chess players, cartoonists, astronauts and social activists remain among the living.
World Wide Web:
http://www.whosaliveandwhosdead.com/

MEETING NOTICE
TUESDAY, MARCH 26
AT JAYCEE BUILDING ON
SINGLETON AVE.
7 PM

KILLER PAID ONLINE DATA BROKER FOR MATERIAL

On the last day of her life, Amy Boyer could not have known a killer was waiting for her on her way home from work. But her stalker knew exactly where she would be.

As the 20 year old dental assistant slipped into her Honda Accord on a quiet road just off Main Street here one day in October 1999, the obsessed young man pulled up, shot her repeatedly and then turned the gun on himself.

The murder-suicide drew nationwide attention because the gunman, a former classmate named Liam Youens, had bought her Social Security number from an Internet information broker for $45.00. Police said he used it as the key to find her workplace.

UK PLANS FOR ONLINE VOTING

Robin Cook, the leader of the House of Commons, has outlined the government's plan for online voting.

The plan, revealed in an interview with the Guardian, a U. K. daily newspaper earlier this week, has been met with guarded optimism from the Electoral Reform Society, a government lobbying group. In the Guardian interview, Cook said he wants the U. K. to be the first country to offer online voting in its general elections.

Although he stopped short of committing the government to a full-blown online voting system at the next elections, now three years away, Cook said that online voting will be necessary if the government is to get more people under the age of 40 to vote.

IRS CAN'T ACCOUNT FOR 2300 MISSING COMPUTERS

The Senate Finance Committee's top GOP member is urging federal budgeters not to increase funding for the Internal Revenue Service until the agency can account for more than 2300 missing computers.

In a letter to the White House's Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels, Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said he was appalled at an internal investigator's report of shoddy security practices at the IRS.

LEAGUE EYES CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON CC&Rs

From 3/02 QST HAPPENINGS

The ARRL got the proverbial lump of coal in its stocking in late December, but it wasn't from Santa. The FCC affirmed a November 2000 staff level decision that declined to include privately imposed deed covenants, conditions and restrictions - CC&Rs - under the limited federal pre-emption known as PRB-1. That policy requires municipalities to "reasonably accommodate" amateur communication in antenna-related zoning and regulation.

In its *Application for Review* in late 2000, the ARRL maintained that the FCC should have the same interest in the effective performance of an Amateur Radio station and in the promotion of amateur communications regardless of whether the licensee's property is publicly regulated or privately governed by homeowners' associations and their architectural control committees. The ARRL had appealed to have the full FCC review the earlier denial.

The commission turned down the League's *Application for Review* in a *Memorandum Opinion and Order* released December 26.

"There has not been a sufficient showing that CC&Rs prevent Amateur Radio operators from pursuing the basis and purpose of the Amateur Service," the FCC said. The Commission said hams still can get on the air without installing residential antenna systems by operating away from home, while mobile or at club stations.

The FCC said it recognizes the importance of preserving the integrity of contractual relations that CC&Rs represent. It asserted that the ARRL had submitted no specific evidence that would persuade it to abandon its long-standing policy of excluding CC&Rs from PRB-1

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP expressed disappointment in the Commission's ruling. "The biggest problem Amateur Radio operators face today is being able to put up an antenna," Haynie said. "Our approach now is to get a bill into Congress." The FCC itself even hinted that Congressional action ought to be a next logical step. "However, should Congress see fit to enact a statutory directive mandating the expansion or our reasonable accommodation policy," the FCC declared in its MO&O, "the Commission would expeditiously act to fulfill its obligation thereunder."

Haynie conceded that extending PRB-1 protection to CC&Rs would be "a tough sell" to members of Congress. He noted, however, that it's getting more difficult all the time for amateurs to find desirable housing that does not come with deed covenants and restrictions.

The topic was the focus of additional discussion at the January meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors.

FURTHERING THE RADIO ART
From 3/02 QST CORRESPONDENCE

In reply to K4LRX's letter in January 2002 QST: Why do a minority of hams put up such a fight to keep code as a barrier to entering the world of HF? On any day, just check out the CW portions of the HF bands with many kHz of dead silence, except for one or two stations. Then compare that to the phone portions of the bands where interference is common and an open frequency a rarity. Common sense should dictate which has the greatest following and popularity. I sense there are some, with little vision, who would rather "protect their frequency space from outsiders" than accept change, new people, new ways and ideas that would attract more people to the hobby.

It is doubtful, as some have alleged, that elimination of code would lead to the dumbing down of Amateur Radio. I would think of it more as wising up. I have known many technically qualified people with an interest in Amateur Radio to lose interest quickly just by the idea of having to learn "that old code that no one uses anymore." This is an unfortunate loss to Amateur Radio. Mr. Hilyerd sees the change in code exams where only 1 in 10 pass as a qualified Amateur. yet failed to mention that this qualified CW operator may have only marginal technical skills and excluded 9 who possibly had excellent technical skills.

Knowledge of CW was important when it was the primary mode of operation. However, those days have long since passed. It is now 2002, not 1942. Furthering the advancement of electronics technology and the radio art is why many of us came to Amateur Radio. This artificial barrier has been used all too often to exclude otherwise skilled and knowledgeable people, and that is the dumbing-down and the stagnation of Amateur Radio. Technical skills in electronics, skill in

operating digital modes and new innovative ideas are the keywords of the 21st century and what will support the growth and success of Amateur Radio, not being a skilled CW operator. Morse code has a place in the legacy of Amateur Radio. But we must learn to accept change. Morse code and CW operator skill should no longer be in the forefront as a primary qualification for Amateur Radio. The removal of this barrier would generate new interest in Amateur Radio with young people and serve to eliminate the perception of Amateur Radio as something that is just for older people and "retirees". There has been a paradigm shift and if we don't lose these "sacred cows" and accept the new paradigm, there may not be an Amateur Radio left to enjoy after commercial interests are done slicing up our underutilized CW and other spectrum. *Eric Funderburk, K5III,, TX*

FCC SITE WORKS! Some recent letters (Correspondence Jan 2002 QST) have severely criticized the FCC Web site for license renewal. I must offer the FCC Kudos as a result of my experience. I explicitly followed instructions from the FCC and ARRL for registration on the site and found that it all worked very well. I renewed my license online on December 12, 2001. I received my renewed license on December 19, 2001. That's darn good service! *Don Novy, N4VZD, Arden, North Carolina*

I read Rick Tavan's comments regarding the FCC forms with some interest since I've been an amateur continuously since 1968 and ARRL member since 1971 (pardon me while I wheeze), am 51 years old, and I am abidingly impatient with those who use technology as an excuse for poor customer service. I recently renewed my license using the FCC Web site. In less than, I think, fifteen minutes, I had filled out the form at the FCC web page and I was done. In about ten days I had my renewal in the mail. Simple, fast, efficient, without postage, a request for a printed form, or other complications...a rather pleasant experience, actually. I may be an exception to the rule, perhaps, but I'd like to thank the FCC for an efficient process! *Gerry Geisel, WA8ZPP, Ohio*

TR-22 MEMORIES. I read with interest the article on the Drake TR-22 (Ford, "The Drake TR-22: An FM Classic," Jan 2002 p.48). I had an interesting experience with the TR-22. In the early 1970s, I was working in the mine countermeasures group for the Naval Ship Engineering Center. This was during the time that we were leaving Vietnam and cleaning the mines out of Haiphong harbor. We received an urgent request for small, battery operated multi-channel transceivers for the divers to use on their rubber boats. Since there was very little available at that time, I made arrangements for the Virginia Section Communications Manager at the time, Bob Slagel, to demonstrate his TR-22 to the people at Headquarters in Crystal City. They thought it was a good idea and so we ordered 10 (I think) of them with oddball simplex frequencies and shipped them over to the Navy divers. We did advise them that while they were water-resistant, they were not waterproof and recommended keeping them in a plastic bag as much as possible.

We only got indirect feedback but they seemed to do the job just fine. The divers were probably violating some radio regulations but I don't think there was anyone in North Vietnam who would have complained. Another case of ham radio to the rescue. The Drake people were most cooperative and helpful, but sadly I can't remember the name of the person I dealt with. I couldn't tell the story at the time because some of the details were classified but it's now ancient history. I personally had a TR-22C that had 12 channels instead of 6 and used it a lot until I got my Tempo S1. In some ways I wish I had kept it. But at the time, I justified the new radio by getting rid of the old one. *Cliff Bedore, W3CB, College Park, Maryland*

ABELL'S ANECDOTES
By Pike Abell W4EPU

YET ANOTHER ANIMAL STORY - THE AMAZING MOCKINGBIRD.

There are several mockingbirds in our neighborhood. A couple of pairs make their homes in the shrubbery around our house. I suppose just about everybody has at least one pair of mockingbirds..

During the mating season in particular, they sing to their hearts content. Often times I have listened to them in an effort to hear a repeat song, which I never do. I was so intrigued that I did some research on the bird, with some interesting results. Sources of the following information are from the encyclopedia Americana, The Audubon Society Bird Book and the magazines "National Wildlife" and "Birds and Blooms"

Some sources claim the mockingbird has a series of beautiful and exuberant songs of its own while also having the ability to imitate the calls of many other birds. Others have it that they have no songs of their own, but only sing what they have learned from other bird species. Nonetheless researchers have found there is no limit to the number of songs a mockingbird can pick up. They not only mimic songs of other birds but imitate squirrels, frogs, sirens, crickets and even squeaky gates, among many other things. They can go for hours with very few repeats. In one season they can master hundreds of songs - in a lifetime perhaps thousands. "National Wildlife" reported that one mocking bird mimicked an alarm clock so well that it awakened neighbors every morning.

In a letter to Birds & Blooms magazine, Suzette Ivill of Clermont Florida wrote: "My aunt, who knows I love birds, gave me a refrigerator magnet that makes bird sounds when it is pushed. So, when I heard mockingbirds in the area, I sat on my screen porch and kept pushing the magnet, It only took a couple of days and the mocking birds could duplicate those songs exactly."

The male mockingbirds do most of the singing, especially during mating season. He may use his whole songbook of melodies to lure a mate. It seems that, to a female, a vast repertoire suggests he is wise to the world and has probably established a territory with plenty of food.

No other animal can even come close to the mockingbird to mimic the sounds of its environment. Parrots, for example, can be taught to talk but only a comparative few words at best.

Think for a moment about the size of this little critter. Its brain is about the size of a hazelnut. Its ability to store all of those songs in its little head in addition to all of the other information necessary for survival is simply mind boggling. 73s es 88s

GOT ANY UNWANTED HEATHKIT GEAR?
By Clyde Lee K4EOS

There was a ham at Orlando Hamcation who buys these radios. I took one of his flyers and thought I'd pass on his call and info. He says, "I am looking to buy Heathkit amateur radio gear of any vintage - working or not - and especially unbuilt kits."

He also has a number of hard to find unusual parts and info on repair work and repair parts for Heathkit.

He is: W4DAS Doug Shields
1450 East 11th St.,
Stuart, FL 34996.

Telephone: 561-287-7830

Email: w4das@arrl.net

FEBRUARY MINUTES
By KF4HTB Becky Lee

After the opening ceremonies and introduction of members and guests, Bud K4CWG announced that the club has Coax RG8U for sale at $.21 a foot.

New Members were voted into the club. Harmonica Bill W2SDB arrived late, but just in time to stop some of the members from singing Happy Birthday. As usual, his music was enjoyed by all.

Les K4SJC gave an update on the repeater. Work is in progress and it should be in good shape in the near future. He and Bud described the 10x16 building that the City of Titusville has built to house the repeater. It is insulated and air conditioned

Anthony KG4CEB talked about hurricane preparation. The primary shelters have shutters and soon will have back up generators. He is updating the list of people willing to work in the shelters. Please call him if you are available. He also announced that he is moving from the area and the club needs someone to step up and take over Anthony's duties.

Stephanie K4MVO again stressed that BEARS needs funding for operating expenses and announced that she would pass the hat during break. She also talked about the Ride For The Red to be held April 6 and urged members to participate.

After the break members were entertained by John Stockberger, W9THI who related his experiences through the years in ham radio. Especially interesting were the stories of his experiences while in the Navy during WWII. Everyone enjoyed his remembrances.

TREASURERS REPORT
By Becky Lee, KF4HTB

Balance forward from 2001	$4574.11
Deposits Year to Date	742.00
TOTAL INCOME	**$5316.11**
Expenditures	666.33
BALANCE AS AT 1/31/02	**$4649.78**

CLUB OFFICERS
President: Bud Hughes, K4CWG. 269-0779
V.Pres: Ozzie Osband, N4SCY. 321-LIFTOFF
Sec/Treas: Becky Lee, KF4HTB, 267-9375

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS
Pat Renninger, KF4LTY. 267-9431
John Renninger, KE4ZPA. 267-9431
Ralph Hall AE4LE
Sherry Hughes, KU4ZO. 269-0779

REPEATER CUSTODIAN BOARD

Les Griner, K4SJC (146.91) 267-1565
Warren Murray, W4CEL (146.97) 638-5476
Dave McLean, WB4SIG (444.15) 267-6181
Larry Carr, WB9MFJ (Packet-Rose Node) 268-4114

CLUB INFORMATION

Meetings: Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs. at Jaycee Building

Newsletter Editors: KF4HTB Becky Lee
K4EOS Clyde Lee

Nets: **VIP**-Thursdays at 1000 hrs. 146.910
Friendship-Thursdays at 1830 hrs. 146.910
Mosquito-Wednesdays at 1900 hrs. 28.333
Traders-Mondays at 2000 hrs 146.910

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 206 (142 regular, 46 family, 12 honorary, 6 other)

NEW MEMBERS: KG4RFT CHARLES DAILY

RENEWALS:

KF4AOW W. S. DAMPIER
KE4WJV TERRY DAMPIER
AE4CB DAVID HURST
KC2ENO ART SMITH
N2JY JUDY SMITH
KF4FQW DUANE POCOCK
KG4FXR F. LEE ERSKINE
KC4HIO RICHARD SWEATT
KC4HIQ SHIRLEY SWEATT
KG4KVO ED WIRTH
N1PAW JOE BONARDI
N1OGE BERTHA BONARDI
KC4VIO JOSE RAMOS
KC4VIN CAROL RAMOS

HAMFESTS:

03/16 STUART
03/16 FT.WALTON BEACH
03/16 STUART
03/23 SUNRISE
04/06 JACKSONVILLE
04/20 TAMPA
04/20 CORAL GABLES
04/27 GAINESVILLE